



marchofdimes.com

March of Dimes Foundation

National Office  
1275 Mamaroneck Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605

November 12, 2013

Member of Congress,

The undersigned organizations urge you to vote for S. 252, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act, when it is considered under Suspension of the Rules later today.

November marks Prematurity Awareness Month, and just days ago the March of Dimes announced that the United States' preterm birth rate had dropped for the sixth consecutive year. In 2012, 11.5 percent of U.S. births were preterm, compared to 12.8 percent in 2006. For information on your state's preterm birth rate please visit <http://www.marchofdimes.com/mission/prematurity-reportcard.aspx>. The March of Dimes estimates that since 2006, about 176,000 fewer babies have been born too soon because of improvement in the preterm birth rate, resulting in healthier infants and potentially saving about \$9 billion in health and societal costs. We believe one of the key factors for the decline is the 2006 PREEMIE Act (P.L. 109-450), which brought the first-ever national focus to prematurity prevention. The law spurred innovative research at the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and supported evidence-based interventions to prevent preterm birth.

The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act will continue to fuel our progress by supporting federal research and promoting known interventions and community initiatives to prevent preterm birth. Preterm birth exacts a human, emotional, and financial impact on families and a tremendous economic burden on our nation. It is the leading cause of newborn mortality and the second leading cause of infant mortality. Those babies who survive are more likely to suffer from intellectual and physical disabilities. A 2006 report by the Institute of Medicine found the cost associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26.2 billion annually, or \$51,600 per infant born preterm. Employers, private insurers and individuals bear approximately half of the costs of health care for these infants, and another 40 percent is paid by Medicaid.

S. 252 is an important step toward improving the health and wellbeing of our nation's children. Please vote "yes" on S. 252.

Sincerely,

March of Dimes  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Public Health Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses



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Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals  
First Candle  
Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

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